



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary
Office of the General Counsel

Public Health Division
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March 3, 2011

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Re: Supplemental Notice of Ex Parte Communication, WC Docket No. 07-271

*In the Matter of The United States Department of Health and Human Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Petition for
Permanent Reassignment of Three Toll Free Suicide Prevention Hotline Numbers,
in Toll Free Service Access Codes*

On March 1, 2011, A. Kathryn A. Power, Richard McKeon, and Eileen Zeller, of the United States Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), along with their attorney Rina Hakimian of the HHS Office of the General Counsel, met in person with Heather Hendrickson, Michelle Sclater, Ann Stevens, William Dever and Lisa Gelb of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to discuss SAMHSA's comments filed on February 28, 2011.

SAMHSA discussed its role in funding the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) network and the critical services which the Lifeline provides. SAMHSA noted how the three toll free suicide prevention hotline numbers which were reassigned by the FCC to SAMHSA in January 2007 were integrated into the Lifeline network to benefit from the enhanced services to the public which the Lifeline provides. SAMHSA discussed the statutory mission of the agency, and the grant programs which it supports in the area of mental health. Further, SAMHSA discussed its petition to permanently reassign the three suicide prevention hotlines, and the justification for such reassignment.

SAMHSA reiterated the public interest served by having the three suicide prevention hotlines operated by SAMHSA's grantee. Specifically, SAMHSA noted the vulnerability and needs of callers to the hotlines, the urgency and time-sensitivity of the responses required, the complex technological services to support rapid call connectivity, the requirement for trained and dedicated professional staff, and the need for sufficient financial resources to maintain the network as a stable resource to ensure caller access. In addition, SAMHSA expressed concerns about a toll free number maintained by the Kristin Brooks Hope Center (1-800-SUICIDA), relating information it had learned indicating that this number is not used as a suicide prevention hotline.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the FCC's rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed for inclusion in the above-referenced docket. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hakimian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rina Hakimian
Senior Attorney

cc: Lisa Gelb, FCC
Ann Stevens, FCC
Heather Hendrickson, FCC
Michelle Sclater, FCC